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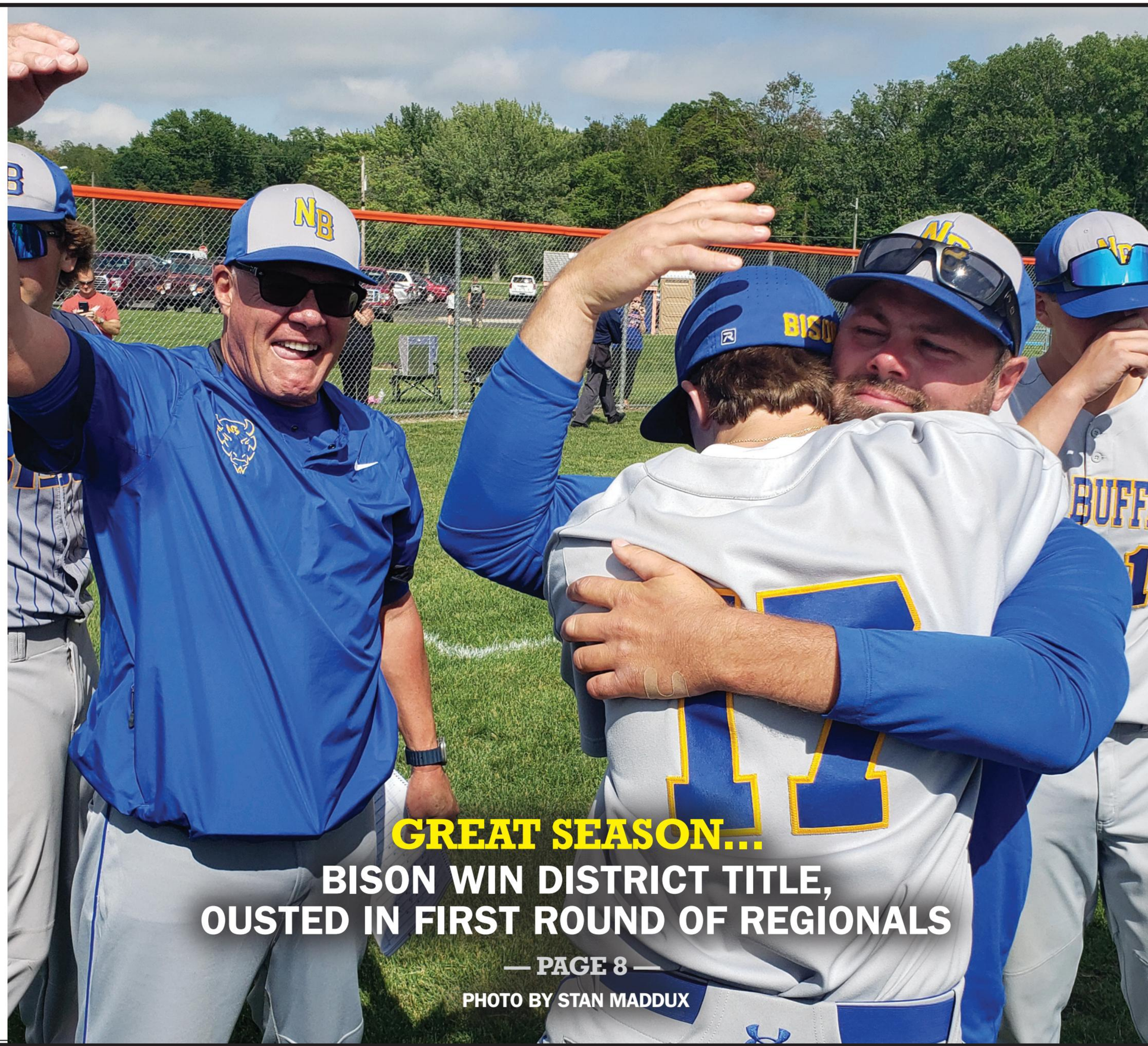

GREAT SEASON...

BISON WIN DISTRICT TITLE, OUSTED IN FIRST ROUND OF REGIONALS

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PHOTO BY STAN MADDUX

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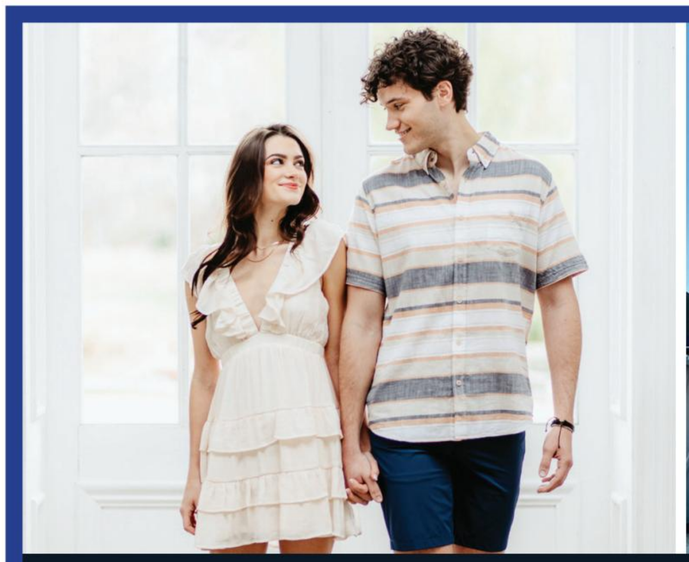

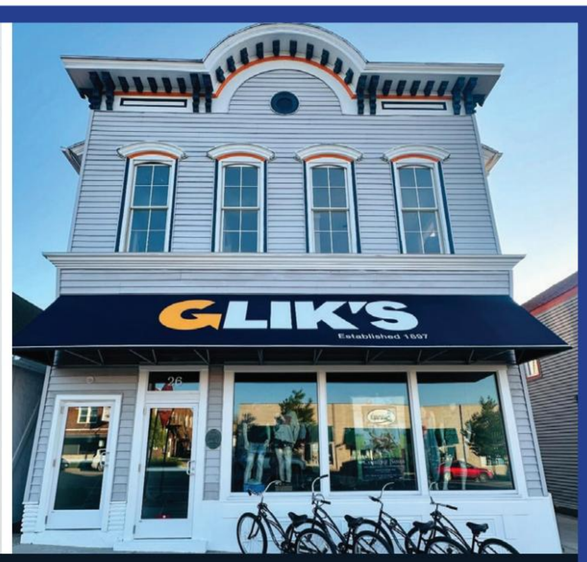

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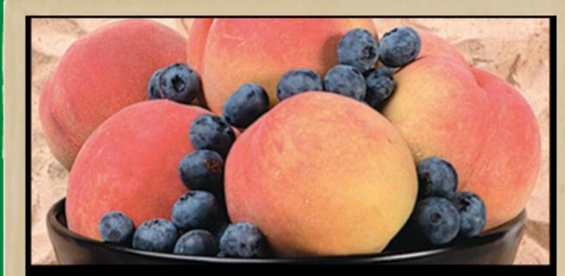

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General manager Lesli Clarke by the vault, which is stocked with wines for those special occasions

Owner Michael Fultum and general manager Lesli Clarke

Owner Michael Fultum stands by a shelf stocked with wines

Whittaker Wine Merchants seeks to broaden your wine palate

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Wine from across the world can be found on New Buffalo's Whittaker Street at Whittaker Wine Merchants.

"I like a particular style of wine and I like to be a little bit more adventurous in my tastes and styles," owner Michael Fultum said.

Wine can be found from regions and countries that include France, Italy, South America, South Africa and the region of Georgia, Lebanon, Greece and Croatia - the birthplace of wine. Customers can also find some Michigan wines.

General manager Lesli Clarke said that the wine sold at Whittaker Wine is "basically that next step up at a higher level" when compared to what's sold at a grocery store.

"If somebody comes in and says, 'I love any kind of cabernet or pinot noir that you can pick up from the grocery store,' we're not going to carry that but we will carry wines that will be in a similar price range that will hit all those flavor notes for people," she said.

Fultum said that both the wine expert and novice are welcome in Whittaker Wine Merchants.

"We wanted to have an approachable shop with world wines with a highly trained and educated staff so that anyone can walk in and say, 'I generally drink this' and if we don't carry that, Lesli and the team can say, 'You may want this and you can try this instead' with similar notes and tastes and profiles and vintages,'" Fultum said.

Fultum also owns The Historian, a cocktail lounge and wine bar in Sawyer. Previously, it was also the location for Peasant's Pantry, which sold breakfast and bakery items.

Having obtained a masters in history as well as worked in health care compliance, Fultum said that he's "self-taught" when it comes to the food and beverage industry.

Fultum said he's part investing partner at Hummingbird Lounge in New Buffalo. Owner Ben Smock owns the building that houses Whittaker Wine.

"He was talking about putting a wine shop here in New Buffalo outside of the traditional gas station and grocery store setting," Fultum said.

Having obtained her WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) Level 3 Award in Wine, Clarke, who had been a vendor for Fultum for around seven years, jumped onboard.

Customers will also find a selection of craft beer from the United States as well as Europe and coffee. There are also food items, such as crackers, spreads, cheeses and prosciuttos.

Books for people to bone up on their wine knowledge line a shelf. Eventually, retail items, such as corkscrews, some bags and napkins, will be available.

"Basically, we want to be that stop that people can make on their way in for the weekend, or locals as well, if they're going to be doing some entertaining or having some people over - 'I'm going to get that bottle of wine, maybe pick up a decanter, some cheese and crackers' and boom: party," Clarke said.

Through Hummingbird Lounge or The Historian, Whittaker Wine Merchants may do offsite wine education events or a meet the winemaker event. Customers can also give their phone number or email address to participate in a wine club.

Whittaker Wine Merchants is located at 419 S. Whittaker Street. Current hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. More information can be found by calling 269-231-5092 or visiting WhittakerWineMerchants.com.

Whittaker Wine Merchants and The Historian are both divisions of Peacefield Collective, Fultum's hospitality group. The group will include Elle & Henri, a new French bistro that will open this fall next to The Historian.

One way to effectively deal with individuals or a political group undermining you is to expose them. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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Sheriff, Chuck Heit
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Microsoft investing $1 Billion strikes deal for data center in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

A deal has been struck for Microsoft to build a data center in La Porte in what was described by Mayor Tom Dermody as the largest economic development project in the city's history and one that will have a noticeable lasting impact on the community of about 23,000 citizens.

"Wow. Changing our future direction. This is amazing," he said.

Microsoft will invest $1 billion into what will be a 245,000 square foot facility on Boyd Boulevard just east of U.S 35 on the far south side of La Porte.

The data center will be constructed on about 500 acres of farmland Microsoft purchased in two separate transactions in 2023 and early this year after the property was annexed into the city at the request of the now former property owners, who expressed a desire for the land to be redeveloped, said La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Bert Cook.

Up to 200 people will be employed there by the end of 2032 in what were described as high wage, high-tech positions.

The deal was struck Monday, June 3, when the La Porte City Council unanimously approved a 40-year data center tax exemption strictly on the high-tech equipment to be contained inside the facility.

In exchange, Microsoft will refund as much as $2.5 million or 30 percent of its tax savings a year under the lifetime of the agreement.

The funds will be split by the city's Redevelopment Commission and the La Porte School Corporation.

"It's massive for the City of La Porte. The jobs are all going to be quality, high paying jobs which is something we can't have enough of," said La Porte City Councilman Tim Franke.

He also said what the redevelopment commission and school corporation can do with the revenue is also a "game changer for us."

Unlike tax abatements, which forgive a percentage of property taxes over, typically, a 10 year period, there will be no property taxes assessed on the equipment at any time under the exemption, Cook said.

The exemption was made possible under a law designed to attract data centers and other high-tech companies to the state.

State Rep. Jim Pressel of Rolling Prairie said he helped draft the tax exemption legislation signed by the governor about three years ago.

"Since we passed that Indiana is becoming the data hub of the country. It's working out very well," he said.

Cook said property taxes will be assessed in full, though, on the value of the building and property.

Governor Eric Holcomb said the La Porte data center will accelerate cloud computing infrastructure to support growth in technology and artificial intelligence worldwide.

"As a state, we've built a pro-growth business climate and implemented a future-focused framework to attract major investments in high-tech, high-growth sectors. We're excited to welcome Microsoft's new data center to Indiana and look forward to the incredible value add impact this will have on our statewide data driven ecosystem, new career opportunities, specifically the greater northwest Indiana community," he said.

Cook said landing Microsoft definitely furthers the steps into a more modern era the city has been aggressively taking since Dermody became mayor in 2020.

He believes other companies and residents will be attracted to La Porte just from having a world renowned company like Microsoft in the community.

"It really signals that La Porte is a community that's growing and it is a place where people want to be. For any of those other businesses or residents who are looking for a community to locate in, they should be looking in La Porte and we're excited about that," Cook said.

Holcomb said the timetable for construction of the data center hinges on how fast it takes to go through the building design, planning and permitting process that will begin with the city later this year.

"We'll see construction in the very near term. It's not something that's 10 years out," Cook said.

The art world is the biggest joke going.
It's a rest home for the overprivileged, the pretentious, and the weak.
— Banksy

Enjoying a ride and a feast at Bike-N-Brunch

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Cyclists are ready to ride down Wilson Road

Cyclists sign in at the Bike-N-Brunch

Cyclists start down Wilson Road

Janet Musikantow prepares brunch, which includes Michigan stawberries

Dave Knoebber's historic barn, which is the start and end of the ride

Despite the low-lying, gray clouds and cooler air that had moved into the region, cyclists still turned out to support Radio Harbor Country at the 11th annual Bike-N-Brunch Sunday, June 2.

This year, Dave Knoebber, who owns the farm on Wilson Road that serves as the start and end point for the ride, said that 168 people had registered.

Cyclists come from the general area of Illinois and Indiana as well as further away. This year, a couple from Nashville, Tennessee, drove up for it.

"They heard so much about it that they came," Knoebber said.

Riders of all levels enjoyed 9-, 20- or 30-mile loops through the area's winding backroads. Afterwards, participants enjoyed a gourmet brunch of locally grown and prepared food provided by Luisa's Harbert Swedish Bakery and Market, Sawyer Garden Center, Red Arrow Road House, Flagship Specialty Foods and Fish Market, Heston Supper Club, Green Spirit Farms and Infusco Coffee Roasters.

Knoebber is in his 18th year of hosting his show, Harbor Country Arts Scene, on Radio Harbor Country.

"I spend an hour on the air telling people what's going on at art exhibits, events, interviewing people who are artists and playing selective music," he said.

Radio Harbor Country WRHZ 93.5 FM and WRHC 106.7 FM is a low-power FM radio station in Sawyer, with a 100-watt transmitter that reaches a 6 to 10 mile radius serving Harbor Country. For a schedule of programming, visitradioharborcountry.org.

Knoebber is also president of Harbor Arts, which puts on the free usic in the Park series every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks in the summer. The following is the line-up for the 26th series, which begins this weekend: June 8, Southshore Concert Band; JUne 15, The Chicken Dolphin Band; June 22, Funky Mojo Daddy; June 29, PT and The Cruisers; July 6, Blue Water Ramblers; July 13, Corky Siegel; July 20, Bobby Hunt and the Day Drinkers; July 27, Quite Frank Lee; Aug. 10, On the Leash; Aug. 17, Vicki Page Band; Aug. 24, The Scamp Band and Aug. 31, The Newport Blues Project.

Escaped bobcat safely returned to zoo

BY STAN MADDUX

A baby bobcat was safely returned about 36 hours after escaping from Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City.

Nine-month-old "Grace" was discovered missing Wednesday, May 29, from a habitat designed for her species.

Her sister, Hazel, was still in the enclosure.

It was also learned that morning Grace was no longer on the grounds of the zoo along the city's lakefront.

Zoo director Jamie Huss said a reported sighting of Grace phoned into the Michigan City Police Department just before 8 p.m. Thursday, May 30, resulted in her "non-stressful" capture.

She was found in the brush along the north side of the Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheatre, just several hundred feet east of the entrance to the zoo at 115 Lake Shore Drive.

Huss said the bobcat was surrounded by zoo personnel and police officers before being quickly lured into a live trap containing "chicken bits."

Grace was scanned for her microchip to verify her identity and appeared to be in good health.

"She looks good for having gone on an adventure," she said.

Huss said Grace was looked over by a veterinarian, who cleared her to be housed again with her sister.

They're being kept in another zoo holding area until her point of escape has been located and the enclosure secured.

"Usually, adventurous animals leave a trail where they exit from but we're having trouble finding it," said Huss.

During the search, a public appeal was made to report any sightings immediately to the Michigan City Police Department.

Huss said there were numerous reported sightings but just four were credible, including one in the nearby Canada Park area.

She said the search involved live traps and monitoring of the area.

"We are grateful for the support from the community and the assisting agencies," Huss said.

Carrie Campbell, owner of Hatfield Wildlife Control in La Porte, said she was not surprised the animal similar in size to a large house cat was found close to the zoo.

Campbell said the bobcat could have been afraid to stray too far away since there hasn't been enough time or a need for her to develop skills to survive in the wild.

She believes homes in the woods and along the shoreline east of the zoo contributed to her remaining in close proximity since bobcats as with all wildlife, in general, tend to move away from humans.

Campbell said the area surrounding the zoo being hilly and heavily wooded is conducive to wildlife.

"Just like humans, they need food, shelter and water so it's going to be somewhere where it's going to thrive. It will not go near loud noise," she said.

Trip a blessing despite early exit from National Spelling Bee

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte school student is back home from Washington D.C., where he participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Nolan Roule, an eighth grader at St. John's Lutheran School, made it past the first round during the preliminaries Tuesday, May 28, when he correctly spelled "Antigua."

He was eliminated during a vocabulary portion of the contest in the second round, when he did not pick the proper definition for "Bromide" in a multiple-choice question.

"He was pretty heart broken, but within a half an hour he was able to kind of get over it and get back to enjoying the week and focus on the success in getting here in the first place," said his father, Mark.

Nolan called participating in the spelling bee at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center outside the nation's capital in National Harbor, Maryland "a great experience."

He said one of the things he enjoyed most about it was meeting "a bunch of new people," but he described being on the stage, though, as "very frightening."

"You couldn't tell, though. He had good poise and he did a great job," said Mr. Roule.

There were 245 contestants in fifth through eighth grades in the 96th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, who qualified by winning their regional competitions.

Bruhat Soma, a seventh grader from Tampa, Florida, won the three-day contest Thursday night during a spell-off with eight finalists.

Soma received a championship trophy, along with $50,000.

Roule, his wife, Sydney, along with Nolan and his 12-year-old brother, Ian, will begin heading home the morning after a Friday night dinner, the last event for the contestants and their families.

During their one week stay, the Roule's also took part in a lot of sight-seeing.

Among the things they did was ride a trolley to most of the monuments in the nation's capital and visit the mansion of the first U.S. president, George Washington, at Mt. Vernon.

Nolan said he also enjoyed his time at the National Air and Space Museum and other places, like the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

He also pointed out "we've gone to a lot of good restaurants."

The Roule's left on May 24 after Nolan was given a pep rally type send-off by staff members and classmates in the K-8 school.

"It's just a wonderful blessing that Nolan and our whole family have gotten to enjoy," he said.

Neighbor By Neighbor to host 'Founders' Brunch' at pastoral private home

Neighbor by Neighbor will be hosting the seventh annual Founders' Day Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 22, to help neighbors in need.

The fundraiser will take place at the private home of Kirk Amptmeyer and Gary Allen at Prairie Wood Place in Three Oaks.

The festive fundraising brunch will honor Megan Bolinder, Peg Kohring Cichon, Peggy Lefebvre and Harbert Community Church. These founders of Neighbor by Neighbor have worked tirelessly over the last six years to help Neighbor by Neighbor grow and become the organization it is today - helping over 1500 clients in southwest Berrien County.

Supported by several local restaurants' donations and private donations, event tickets are $150 per person and include delicious brunch offerings and celebratory cocktails.

Neighbor by Neighbor clients are struggling right now with food and housing insecurity. Food assistance has been cut by as much as 75% for some of our clients and rent across the state has increased, on average, by 11%.

Neighbor by Neighbor connects the most vulnerable residents of southwest Berrien County with resources and services to address immediate needs, while facilitating greater independence through targeted programs and services.

Neighbor by Neighbor also mobilizes the community to build networks of mutual service and care through robust volunteer participation.

For tickets, visit www.neighborbyneighbor.org/event-tickets.

The Pokagon Fund came to the Church of the Mediator with a community need, to serve those in poverty who live in Harbor Country. The Reverend Paula Durren and Linnea Berg spearheaded the new program together and developed the guiding principles. Harbert Community Church then became a fiduciary partner and large supporter.

During the height of the pandemic, Neighbor by Neighbor focused on keeping our clients housed, with food on the table and the lights on. As Covid recedes, Neighbor by Neighbor has focused on getting clients back to work by connecting them to jobs, offering a GED program and connecting families to community resources. Neighbor by Neighbor received its own 501c3 status in January 2022 and all donations are charitable deductible. — STAFF REPORTS

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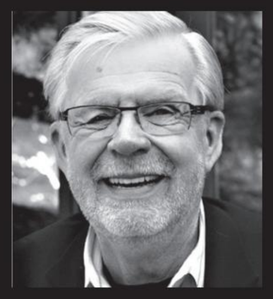
SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Okay, I guess it may be time for me to eat some crow.

As many of you know, baseball is my favorite sport. I love baseball at all levels, from toddlers just learning how to throw a ball to high school kids becoming good enough to sign letters of intent to play in college, and finally minor and major leaguers.

Because of my love of the game I read a lot about it and that, along with the eye test, makes me feel like I'm able to tell if a player, or a team, is going to be good, really good, or just average. Of course baseball isn't an exact science, and players are human, so predicting things that go on outside the arena (like partying or relationships problems) and how that effects a player's performance is impossible to do.

Those things, and injuries, play a huge role in the outcome of individuals and teams. Because things happen to every team, over the course of a long season these things tend to even out and the players and teams that are the most skilled rise to the top.

A few short years ago, the White Sox were going through a rebuild, by trading many of their veteran players for unproven youngsters. At the time, I was positive they were doing the right thing and would soon be contending for championships.

Well, a few injuries and some youngsters that didn't work out and before you know it, they hired Tony LaRussa. Things went downhill quickly and it was time to start all over again.

This year, the Sox are by far the worst team in baseball, the fans are growing restless, and this is about the time I thought they would be challenging for a championship.

Oops.

The Cubs also went through a rebuild, trading or releasing all of their World Series (except for Kyle Hendricks) stars for youngsters.

Last year, they almost made the playoffs. So this year, it seemed like a forgone conclusion that they would be really good. They brought in Craig Counsell, one of the best managers in baseball to run the team, they re-signed Cody Bellinger, and added Japanese pitcher Shota Imanaga and relief pitcher Hector Neris.

Those moves, along with last year's almost playoff team, seemed to make the playoffs a forgone conclusion this year. The season started well, but the month of May hasn't been very friendly to the boys in blue. They are hitting very poorly and their relief pitching has been atrocious.

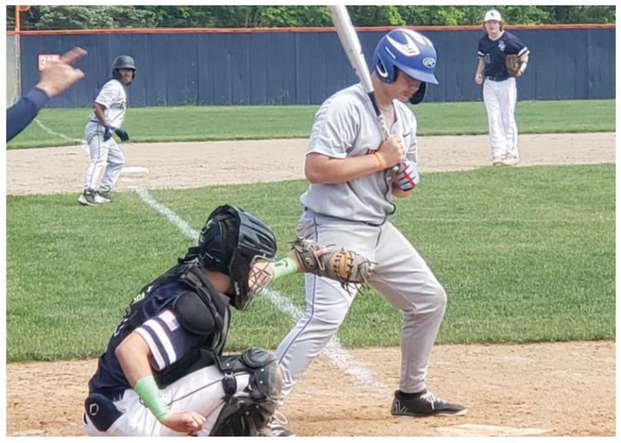
I realize it's a long season with 102 games remaining, but as of Sunday night, the Cubs are two games under .500, and if they don't start playing a lot better, Milwaukee is going to be almost impossible to catch. Combined, the Chicago baseball teams have won two games out of the last 20.

Time to get going boys.

Elmer G. Letterman said, "A man may fall many times, but he won't be a failure until he says that someone pushed him."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

The playoffs are fun, man, that's all I've got to say. — *Luka Doncic*



Bison ousted in first round of regionals

BY STAN MADDUX

While the New Buffalo High School baseball team had an early lead in the regional semi-finals Wednesday, June 5, they were defeated 15-5 by Hackett Catholic Prep.

It was bad timing, perhaps, for New Buffalo to face the team from Kalamazoo, which came into the contest winning nine of their last 10 games.

The Bison went into the second inning with a 1-0 lead but freshman starting pitcher Jeffrey Tertel solid all season from the mound gave up 11 runs in the next two innings.

One of the eight hits allowed was a home run.

Tertel, who consistently threw the ball in the strike zone during the season, gave up two walks and hit five batters.

Junior Ethan Lijewski pitched one inning in the game, which was called in the fifth inning under the Michigan High School Athletic Associations mercy rule.

Lijewski allowed just one hit and had two strikeouts but allowed four runs largely from giving up four walks.

Sophomore Nick Wolfe had two hits and drove in three runs for the Bison, while senior Giovanny Sanchez-Perez had two hits, drove in two runs and scored a run.

Lijewski had a double and triple and crossed home plate twice.

The Bison (14-16) advanced to the regionals after winning the June 2 District 4 championship game against River Valley 7-3.

River Valley scored three first inning runs but the Bison finished all of the scoring from both teams in the bottom of the first and second innings to win 7-3 at Bridgman.

After a rocky beginning, senior Giovanny Sanchez-Perez, with help from his defense, settled down and pitched effectively the rest of the way for the Bison.

"I was feeling it. I was in the zone," he said.

Two of the runs were driven in by a second inning double from Ethan Lijewski, who made a number of solid plays at shortstop.

"There are no words to describe how we all feel right now," he said.

The performance of Sanchez Perez from the mound came at the right moment for the Bison, who relied heavily on freshman pitcher Jeffrey Tertel throughout much of the regular season because of his consistency in hitting the strike zone.

Tertel went the distance Saturday in the 5-4 victory over Michigan Lutheran that allowed the Bison to advance to the finals.

He allowed just one earned run in the semi-final game.

Tertel was not eligible to take the mound in the finals, though, because of a Michigan High School Athletic Association rule mandating three days of rest from pitching after 76 or more throws during a game.

He played right field in the finals and contributed with his bat by driving in what turned out to be the game winning run with a double to the left field fence.

On offense, the Mustangs (16-10) began with hard hit singles from their first four batters.

Ryder Wolnick drove in Sean Driscoll from second base with a line drive to right field then Trey Ackerman and Wolnick came home from sharp single to center field by Cooper Lynch, who was later thrown out trying to score on a base hit from Jack Seifert.

The Bison offense also started fast with a walk from lead-off hitter, Vaughn Nikkel, and singles from Sanchez-Perez and Lijewski.

After Nikkel was thrown out trying to reach third base, the Bison scored a run on a bad throw from the catcher to first base after a dropped third strike.

Another run crossed the plate on a single from Hagen Davis, who advanced to second base on an infield single from Braden Huffer before they were both driven home on a two out double to the left field fence by Tertel.

The Bison added to their lead in the second inning when Lijewski knocked in two runs with a double.

Lijewski then came home on a line drive single to left field from Nick Wolfe.

Sanchez-Perez gave up just three hits and two walks during the rest of the game while recording two strikeouts.

He found himself in a two out bases loaded jam, though, after giving up two singles before a fielding error in the sixth inning.

Fortunately, the next batter hit a ground ball that Wolfe fielded and tagged third base for a force out to end the inning.

New Buffalo Head Coach Adam Lijewski said Sanchez-Perez told him before the game he could give him two innings from the mound.

As the game went on, he said Sanchez Perez, feeling he was in a groove, kept asking to stay on the mound for another inning.

"Every time he came in, he says I want one more coach, I want one more coach. I'm finishing it coach," he said.

It was the first sectional title for the Bison in baseball since 2013.

"I'm so proud of these guys. Everybody played a role in it. It was awesome," he said.

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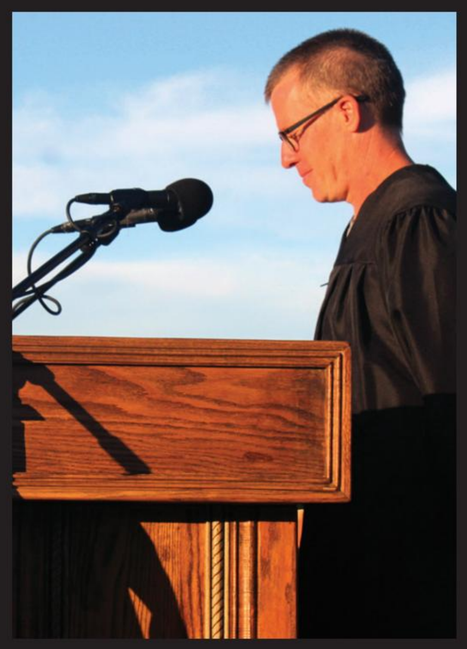
John Lantz leads his classmates in the Pledge of Allegiance for the last time

Lauren Gradowksi displays her diploma after walking across the stage



Class co-advisor Kurt Raducha addresses the class

Outgoing student senate presidents Ava Johnson and Lauren Gradowski pass the totem pole to incoming one, Riley Tertel, Addison Lamport and Ellen Ripley

Elliott Bourne and Samuel Wendel-Suppa reflect on sophomore year

Senior Scholars receive recognition

Graduates take their first walk toward the stage in the multiplex field

The Class of 2024 poses in front of their former elementary school

New Buffalo Class of 2024 lauded for perseverance, accomplishments

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo High School Class of 2024 have accomplished quite the number of feats.

Out of the 37-member class, 13 are Senior Scholars and 22 are in the National Honor Society. Students have also competed at the state level for Quiz Bowl and Envirothon and track and field, one is a National Merit scholar commended student, 13 have a STEM endorsement, five have a Seal of Biliteracy, one has been named a CTE Student of the Year, several have designed and built a house, one has made their debut on the big screen and six students have a post secondary endorsement or certification as part of their career in technical education.

Collectively, the class has earned 234 college credits, with another 126 potential credits coming when Advanced Placement scores arrive in July.

In front of a crowd of family and friends in the school's multiplex field Sunday, June 2, the members completed the final accomplishment of their high school careers: They graduated.

"To the class of 2024: This has truly been an historic and unforgettable journey that you have prepared for the future - whatever your future may hold, you are ready," New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley said.

Kurt Raducha, who served as co-class advisor with Tina Keller, said that he had signed up to be advisor after getting to know some of the students in his World History class and former high school principal Wayne Butler asked for volunteers.

"It turns out you're all amazing" was Raducha's verdict on that spur-of-the-moment decision.

"You hear a lot of folks talk about the younger generation - 'They don't have what it takes' - but looking out at those in front of me, I couldn't disagree more... I have absolute faith in these graduates and I'm excited to see you take on leadership roles in your communities, in business, government and the labor force, in your faith communities and wherever life takes you," he said.

Together, the class has accomplished a lot despite certain challenges they'd come up against: Namely, Covid-19, which stretched from their freshman year and into their sophomore year. John Riley and John Lantz remembered "Songs to Make You Smile" being the theme for the band that year to compensate for "a summer that was filled with frowning" after band camp and sports conditioning were cut short. They also remembered being faced

with the "overwhelming decision" of which exit to use for the rest of the year, having lunch and band practice in the gym and never knowing who'd be in class each day, and if they'd even have class, amidst Covid tests and close contacts.

In weathering that storm, though, they managed to create good memories: merging with River Valley High school to create a successful co-op team, the Red Arrow Raiders; winning the schoolwide Homecoming competition and being Powder Puff Football champions four years in a row; the boys basketball team winning the district championship against Eau Claire; driving themselves to school for the first time and making their own decisions.

"Whichever route you choose, we hope you take every step without hesitation and live your life to the fullest. Thank you, to the senior class of 2024, for making these years the first of many great ones," Audrey Proctor said.

Elizabeth Lamport acknowledged that the class had had their share of both "seen and unseen" struggles.

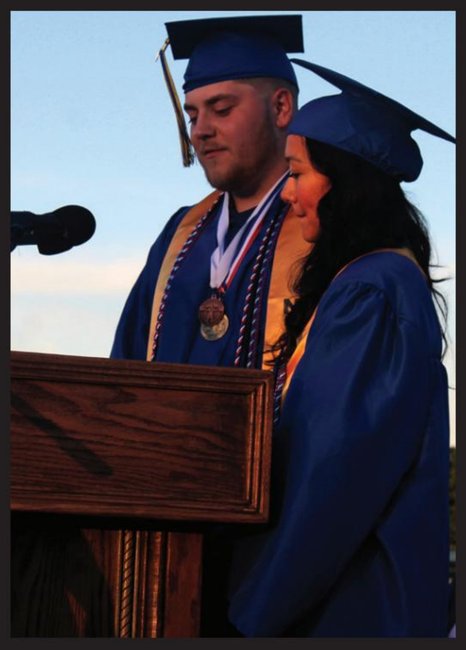
"Yet, we've been able to persevere through these hardships because of all the small communities we've formed with each other - in classes, sports teams, clubs and just who we spend our time with. I believe we've all found people to form important connections with," she said.

Being part of such a small class has afforded everyone "only one or two degrees of separation from each other," which has helped them learn about not just each other but themselves.

"While we might forget a lot of specific details of high school, the traits of our characters that we've developed here and with each other are things we will take with us far into the future... Thank you so much for the difference you have all made in my life," Lamport said.

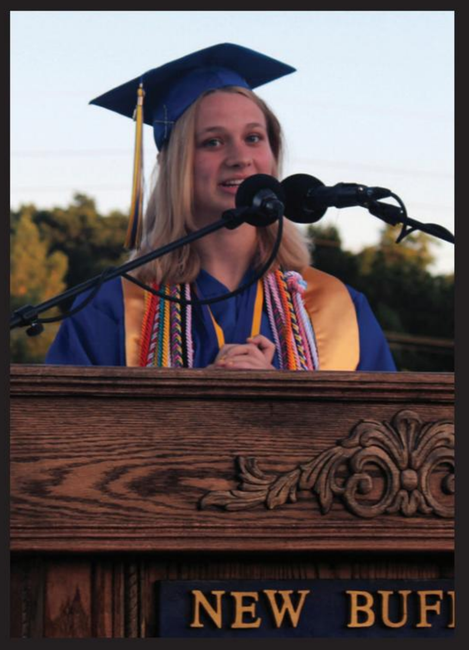
The New Buffalo High School Class of 2024 is Andres Becerra, Jayon Berger, Elliott Bourne, Keri Chlystun, Jordan Crawford, Hagen Davis, Ella Dohner, Cameron Forker, Aiden Globensky, Lauren Gradowski, Collin Harvey, Jaydon Rae Hollis, Braden Huffer, Ava Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Owen Krohn, Elizabeth Lamport, John Lantz, Payton Lijewski, Violet McCay, Wesley McGinn, Nicholas Messinger, Isabelle Moser, Giada Pawloski, Savannah Periolat, Audrey Proctor, Giovanni Sanchez-Perez, Kaitlyn Rainwater, John Riley, Samantha Schimanski, Jordan Serrano, Amelia Sheldon, Olivia Shubert, Spencer Owen Siegel, Finn Olaf Siewert, Laura Wamser and Samuel Wendel-Suppa.

Senior Scholars are Keri Chlystun; Lauren Gradowski; Ava Johnson; Matthew Johnson; Elizabeth Lamport; John Lantz; Wesley McGinn; Isabelle Moser; Giada Pawlowski; Kaitlyn Rainwater; John Riley; Samantha Schimanski and Samuel Wendel-Suppa.



Audrey Proctor and Cameron Forker reflect on senior year

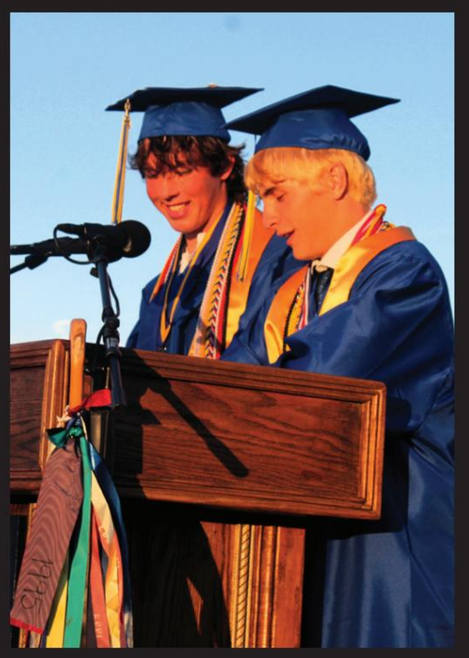
Cameron Forker celebrates receiving his diploma



Elizabeth Lamport gives the senior class address

The Class of 2024 Male and Female Athletes of the Year, John Lantz and Ava Johnson

Nicholas Messinger holds his diploma after walking across the stage



John Lantz and John Riley reflect on freshman year

Outgoing student senate co-presidents Ava Johnson and Lauren Gradowski address the crowd

The high school band performs during commencement

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Fraud charges in used vehicles purchased with credit card

BY STAN MADDUX

Police have arrested a Chicago area man for allegedly buying used cars without the funds to make good on the purchases.

Carl Mack, 47, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with credit card fraud.

According to court documents, all of the purchases were made last summer at Madison Motors in La Porte.

The owner accepted his credit card as payment after the bank told him Mack had enough money to cover the purchase.

Police said Mack made six more transactions from the used car lot over an 11 day period last summer, claiming the vehicles were for his employees and friends.

The car lot owner was later informed the credit card billed for over $53,000 was fraudulent, according to court documents.

Mack could face anywhere from a six month to 30 month sentence on the Level 6 felony charge.

Settlement reached in long time sand mining dispute

BY STAN MADDUX

After nearly a decade of fighting, the digging of sand could be over for good in a La Porte County neighborhood.

The La Porte County Commissioners Wednesday, June 5, gave final approval to a settlement agreement with the landowner, D & M Excavating.

Under the agreement, the owner will attempt to sell the land and stop worker orders on the property won't be lifted until the sale becomes official.

The land is along Schultz Road near U.S. 35 a few miles north of La Porte.

Nearby homeowners like Randy Veatch stood up and applauded the decision by the commissioners.

They have complained primarily about noise, dust and roads damaged from trucks hauling sand off the property from what they alleged was an industrial sand mine operating in a residentially zoned area.

"Can you imagine that happening eight hours a day, every day, five days a week and that's all your hearing," he said.

La Porte County government attorney Scott Pejic said the sale must to be a party unaffiliated with the owner.

"Hopefully, we'll be done with all of his litigation surrounding sand removal in this area," he said.

Pejic said both sides came together after Porter County Judge Jeffrey Clymer in 2023 upheld the stop worker orders.

Initially, owner Ryan Miller claimed he was digging sand to create a pond for a dream home he wanted to build for himself then several years later submitted plans for 40 unit subdivision to be constructed in phases on the property.

Residents alleged his plans were just a cover to keep mining sand under a loophole in the county government zoning ordinance.

County government issued the first stop work order on the property in 2015 several months after the digging started.

Other stop work orders were issued by county government in 2019, 2020 and 2022 because the activity at some point always resumed.

The matter was finally taken to court, where Judge Clymer agreed the purpose of the activity was for the delivery of sand to paying customers.

Since the stop court issued stop work order, Veatch said his life at home has become peaceful again in a residential but somewhat rural area just like it was after he bought the property in 2000.

"It's been a long time coming," he said.

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OBITUARIES

Rosemary Bacon
1935-2024

Rosemary Bacon, 88, of Three Oaks, formerly of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died peacefully, Friday, May 24, 2024.

Her life began May 27, 1935, in Bald Knob, Arkansas, the eldest of five children born to Ray and Juil Tarwater. She married Fred Bacon February 13, 1960, in Three Oaks, Michigan. After forty-two years of marriage, he preceded her in death July 7, 2002.

In 1951, Rosemary moved to Three Oaks, Michigan where she attended the local high school, she then moved to South Bend. In 1971, she and Fred moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she started her daycare business called "The Other Mother". She would care for upward of ten children and loved them all unconditionally. Rosemary was considered a mother figure to her siblings. After her husband passed, she moved back to Three Oaks and re-started her daycare business, caring for six local children. After nearly fifty years, Rosemary officially retired in 2019.

Rosemary will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by

one stepdaughter, Sandy Baker of Norfolk, Virginia; two sisters, Audrey Conley of New Carlisle, Indiana, Betty (Dave) Umphrey of Three Oaks; one brother, Lyne Tarwater of Three Oaks; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

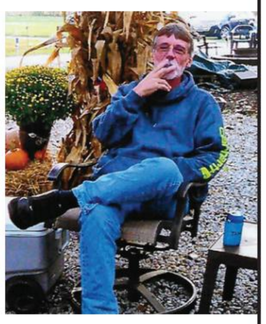
She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Doyle Tarwater; and one stepson, Terry Bacon.

Family and Friends will gather for a graveside service Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Three Oaks Township.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Rosemary be made to Three Oaks Ambulance, 21 South Elm Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128 or to Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry and Thrift Store, 301 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at wwww.wagnercares.com.

Kenneth B. Hatfield
1962-2024



Kenneth B. Hatfield, 62, of New Buffalo, MI passed away on Thursday-May 23, 2024. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI.

Ken was born on Jan. 2, 1962 in Michigan City, IN to the late Chester and Patsy (Salmons) Hatfield.

Ken is survived by his children – Kyle (Sarah Payne) Hatfield and Kurtis (Jessica Soapes) Hatfield and step-daughter Nicole (Keith) Kehoe all of New Buffalo; his long-time partner Pam Collins; numerous grandchildren; brother – Don Hatfield of New Buffalo; and sisters – Carol (Todd) Soller of Michigan City and Gwen (Doug) Burk of La Porte. He is preceded in death by his parents, step-daughter- Robyn Asch, brother-Chester Perry Hatfield, Jr. and sister-Terri Hatfield Sommers.

A Celebration of Life Gathering took place at the New Buffalo American Legion Post #169 in New Buffalo. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hatfield family C/O Don Hatfield @ 34 S. Barker St., New Buffalo, 49117. Friends wishing to leave the family a message of condolence may do so at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Drunk driver kills senior citizen in motorcycle crash

BY STAN MADDUX

A man is accused of being drunk he killed and seriously hurt senior citizens in a collision with their motorcycle in La Porte County.

Angel Almarez, 32, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with operating while intoxicated causing death and operating while intoxicated causing serious bodily injury.

He could face anywhere from 2 to 12 years on each of the level 4 felony counts.

According to court documents, the collision happened Monday, June 3, at Indiana 2 and 150 East near Rolling Prairie.

About 9 p.m., police said Almarez was eastbound in a 2006 GMC Envoy when he struck the rear of a 2012 Honda three wheeled motorcycle.

The passenger in the motorcycle, Cheryl Skidmore, 73, was airlifted to a regional hospital and later died.

The motorcycle driver, Larry Cummings, 82, was taken by ambulance.

Police said both victims from Ft. Meyers, Florida had upper body injuries and were discovered unconscious.

According to court documents, Almarez told investigators he did not see the motorcycle also traveling eastbound prior to the collision.

His alleged blood alcohol level was .173-percent, well above the .08-percent legal limit for operating a motor vehicle.

Court documents also revealed Almarez had just left a bar in La Porte and has a prior OWI conviction within the last five years out of Berrien County, Michigan.

FILM GROUP TO SCREEN, DISCUSS TRUFFAUT'S 'FAHRENHEIT 451'

Harbor Country Film Group leader Eve Moran will screen Francois Truffaut's "Fahrenheit 451" at the group's next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, June 17.

Moran will introduce the 1966 film and lead a discussion following the screening.

"Fahrenheit 451" is about an oppressive futuristic society that outlaws all books of any kind, and charges firemen to seize and burn any books seen or reported by informants. Suspense builds as one fireman meets a book-loving woman and begins to question his beliefs.

The film is based on the Ray Bradbury novel of the same name. It is French director Francois Truffaut's only English-language film, and his first in color. The film touches themes of censorship, mindless conformity and the power of independent thinking.

The film group meets at the New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson Street, in downtown New Buffalo. All are invited to attend, and there is no charge for admission. Free popcorn will be served. The Harbor Country Film Group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

— STAFF REPORTS

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AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Look for alternative methods of healing that will compliment and support traditional medicine this week. By exploring all types of healing modalities, you will not only strengthen your natural medicine chest but bring emotional and physical imbalances into alignment. Healing is on the way.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Strong memories and influences from the past will have an effect over your judgements this week. Be it past friendships or lovers, you will be motivated by these feelings and they may influence you to persevere and remain faithful to a person or situation, even if it is unconventional.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You will be overly critical of your family and home environment now. It's not that you are unhappy with them, it's just that you are overly concerned with the perception of outsiders and how they may view your family or lifestyle. Be authentic and let your reputation speak for itself.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

This is a good week to analyze your skills and strengthen them by taking classes or reading up on new theories. Improving not only the basic skills of reading and comprehension, and arithmetic and problem solving, but art and creativity will open up many travel opportunities this year.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Take the time to analyze your financial commitments this week. This is an excellent time to restructure your debt so, that you won't feel restrained financially or bound by obligations. Whether you are entering into a legal situation or just looking to refinance, know all your options.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

It will be very easy for you to beat yourself up or take on too much of the burden for a situation that has gone awry. Rather than taking all the blame, reset commitments and guard against feeling responsible for the ability of others to process their emotions. Be patient with loved ones.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

People's emotions will be running high this week, creating a lot of undercurrents on the job front. Because you are emotionally intelligent and are very diplomatic, people gravitate towards you; especially coworkers that are having issues with management. When you smile…

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You have an edge for drama this week. Put it to good use by going to the theater or shopping at stores that carry unusual items. Artistic or creative ideas can have a big impact now and have the ability to reach a larger audience. So, prepare ideas and don't hesitate to engage in public speaking.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Your sense for business and successful ventures are highlighted this week. By paying close attention to details, you can feel certain about your choices. Having confidence comes from knowing the risks and preparing for them. So, go after the things you want with certainty and you'll happy.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Your critical thinking skills are peaking this week. Be sure to write down ideas and follow through with them by getting your friends involved. Community and public relations are moving to the forefront which will require strong speaking skills. The students are here. It's teacher time.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

This is a good time to unlock security issues and get closer to that someone special. It will become apparent that your relationship and intimate experiences are being affected by your issues with authority or are related to issues with your father. Let love guide you, not power dimensions.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

A lot of your attention will be focused on your partner and analyzing their faults or issues this week. This may ultimately lead to arguments because they will feel you are being too critical or overbearing. If single, you may be overly critical of friends or misunderstood by them. Not a good time for comments.

Happiness depends upon ourselves.
— Aristotle

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Sudoku

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			8					
8	4				2			1
7	8		3		4		2	
		2		1			6	
								7
2					3	1	7	6
	5		7					
		4					3	2

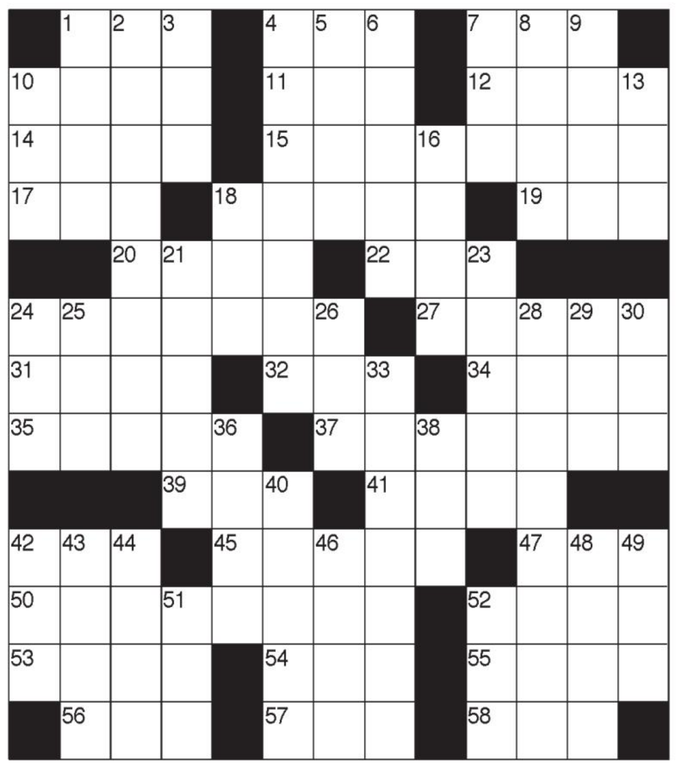
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Federal Bureau of Investigation (abbr.)
4 Political action committee (abbr.)
7 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
10 Soapstone
11 Wood sorrel
12 Action (suf.)
14 Animal teeth (suf.)
15 Threadlike
17 Female rabbit
18 Charger
19 Bird's display area
20 Betel leaf concoction
22 Moon vehicle (abbr.)
24 Hairdo
27 Called
31 Gentleman (Ger.)
32 Used to express negation
34 Hindu princess
35 The Buddha's birth country
37 One of the Seven Hills of Rome
39 Television channel
41 Care for
42 Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)
45 Woman's work basket
47 Condition (suf.)
50 Cob (2 words)
52 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
53 Wound crust
54 Mother of Hezekia
55 Bleach
56 Poetic contraction
57 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
58 Eastern church chalice veil

DOWN

1 Port. folk tune
2 Jay (2 words)
3 Science of (suf.)
4 Floating bridge
5 Afr. fruit
6 Ruminant
7 Mulberry of India
8 Indigo dye
9 Skin eruption
10 Fox (Scot.)
13 Mouse-spotter's cry
16 Arabian Sea gulf
18 With (pref.)
21 Finn. language
23 Sea (Fr.)
24 Greek letter
25 Partlet
26 Month abbr.
28 Jaw bone
29 Last Queen of Spain
30 Arabic letter
33 Moon of Uranus
36 First principles
38 Fr. pronoun
40 Hindu month
42 Ger. spa
43 Speed
44 Wings
46 Endearment
48 River into the Moselle
49 Compass direction
51 Compass direction
52 Braz. tree



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 10, 2024, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., at NBAS High School PAC 1112 E. Clay St, New Buffalo, Michigan, the Board of Education of New Buffalo Area Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2024-2025 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2024-2025 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2024-2025 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at New Buffalo Area Schools Central Office 1112 E. Clay St, New Buffalo, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

VANESSA THUN, SECRETARY

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH 2024-2025 BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Grand Beach will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 fiscal year budgets on Wednesday, June 19th at 4:45 P.M. (EST)- 3:45 P.M (CST) directly before the regularly scheduled council meeting at 48200 Perkins Blvd, Grand Beach, MI 49117.

REGULAR MEETING-BUDGET/ MILLAGE ADOPTION

The Village of Grand Beach will adopt the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget and the 2024 millage rate at its regular council meeting on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. (EST) – 4:00 P.M. (CST) at the Village Hall, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THE MEETING.

A copy of the complete budget is available for public inspection at the Clerk's Office located at 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI.

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PET OF THE WEEK

DALMATIAN

Free-roaming Dalmatian (2) loves stacking cups! They are a lot of fun to play with for her, and she really gets into moving them around. She loves cups when her favorite treats, lettuce and cucumber, are hidden in them. She's spayed, and up-to-date with her vaccinations.

Dalmatian likes a calm environment, but is good with other animals. However, she's not fond of being picked up suddenly, and wouldn't that make you uncomfortable?

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New Buffalo Times
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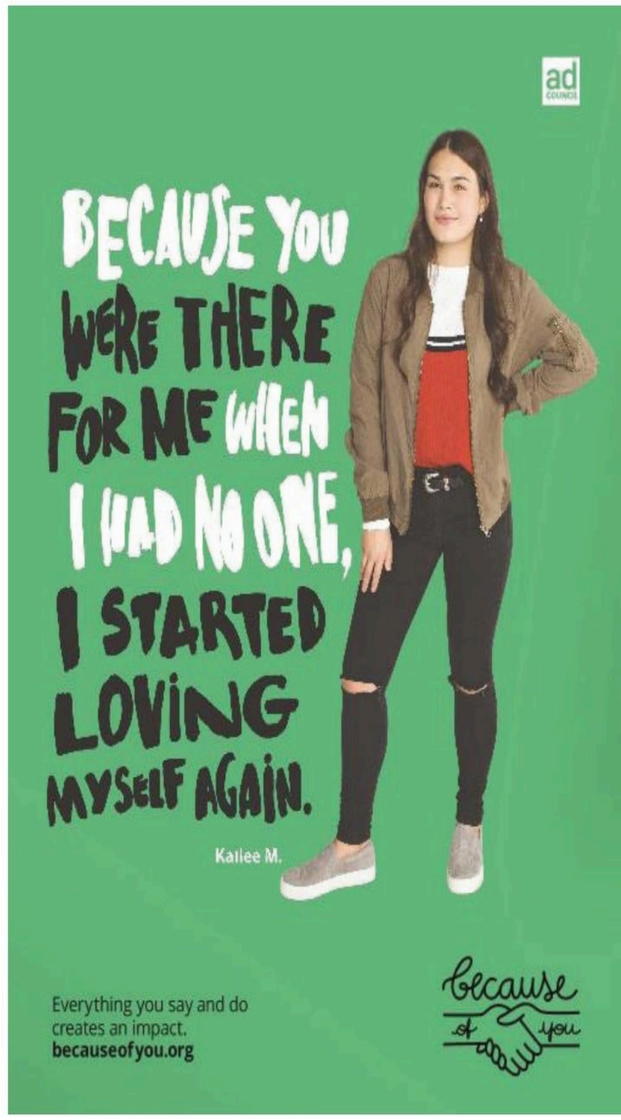
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Locals, visitors flock to Farmed and Forged New Buffalo Market

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A new kind of farmers market debuted in New Buffalo Thursday, May 30.

The market marked the first producers-only New Buffalo Farmed and Forged Market, which is a collaboration of the New Buffalo Business Association (NBBA) with the La Porte-based The Collective's Farmed and Forged Market.

Elisha Taylor, the director of the NBBA Board of Directors, said that she hopes that this year's market will hearken back to the ones that were held on North Whittaker Street in summers past.

"We wanted to really resurrect that into something amazing and The Collective and Farmed and Forged has already done that in La Porte and really grown that - now it's two streets - it's huge, a big party and everyone loves it," she said.

Around 30 vendors were touting their fresh products, which included produce, bath products, jewelry, flowers, popcorn, cake pops, cookies, peanut butter, French pastries and 3-D printed flower pots. Visitors could also grab some tacos from the Rico Suave Group LLC food truck.

"We'll have days around July 4 where it'll be a lot more - we'll see a surge of more vendors and it'll continue to grow into more," Taylor said, adding that the Farmed and Forged La Porte Market grew from 30 to 50 vendors in one year.

The Collective founder Mandy Krickhahn said the nonprofit was established in 2019 "as a community to connect and support entrepreneurs."

"Through that, we have our membership program, so it's kind of like a grassroots chamber of commerce that's tailored more toward small business owners," she said, adding that they do networking and event workshops for members.

Earlier this year, they started a nonprofit called The Collective Events, which is what they host their public events under.

"Through that, we always give back to different nonprofits and causes in the community, so that's what Farmed and Forged is under right now," Krickhahn said.

Farmed and Forged debuted last year in La Porte, during which over $4,500 was raised for area nonprofits.

Every month, the market will feature a space for a different nonprofit to collect donations, with vendors having the choice to donate a portion of their sales to it. At the May 30 market, the community's SNAP fund was being benefitted.

"Those funds are used to match SNAP dollar for dollar to Bridge card users, so if they purchase 20 they get $20 in the SNAP vouchers and they also get an additional $20 - so $40 total to spend at the market," Krickhahn said.

All the raw food items at the market are all grown within a 100-mile radius of it.

Britni Owens, market manager for Farmed and Forged and event coordinator for The Collective, said that vendors come from Michigan as well as Indiana.

"Since we're so close to the border, we get to pull from both areas," she said.

Audrey Manolovits was manning the display of hanging flower baskets and other plants for Mark's Farm Market and Greenhouse, which is also a vendor with Farmed and Forged La Porte.

After packing up her classroom as a teacher, she now works there full-time.

"It's been really rewarding to see seeds being planted, nurtured, and now, we're here for our busy season," she said.

Years ago, she worked in New Buffalo's service industry.

"It's really cool to be back," she said.

To apply to be a vendor, visit thecollectivein.com.

New Buffalo Farmed and Forged will run Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. (except July 4) through Sept. 5 at the lot on Merchant and Whittaker streets.

Vicki Vicari with a display of gourmet cotton candy from Pink Flamingo Cotton Candy

Kari Stolpestad gives samples at the Good Batch Popcorn tent

A line forms in front of Rico Suave Group LLC food truck

Mackenzie Mark and Audrey Manolovits by the flower display outside Mark's Farm and Market and Greenhouses tent

Jessica Cummens displays her handmade jewelry

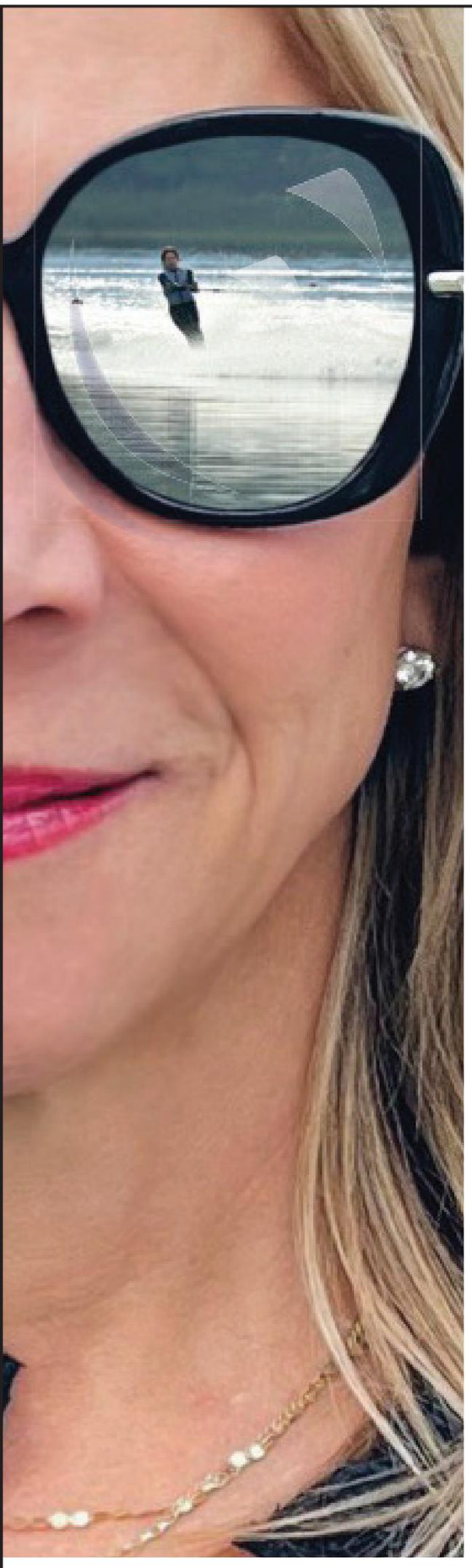
Guests gaze at the items in the Luminous Moon tent

Don Savoie performing

Mixing and mingling at Farmed and Forged New Buffalo Market

Dogs enjoyed the day at the farmers market

Jaden Schultheis displays fresh bath products from Yours Truly Bath Co.



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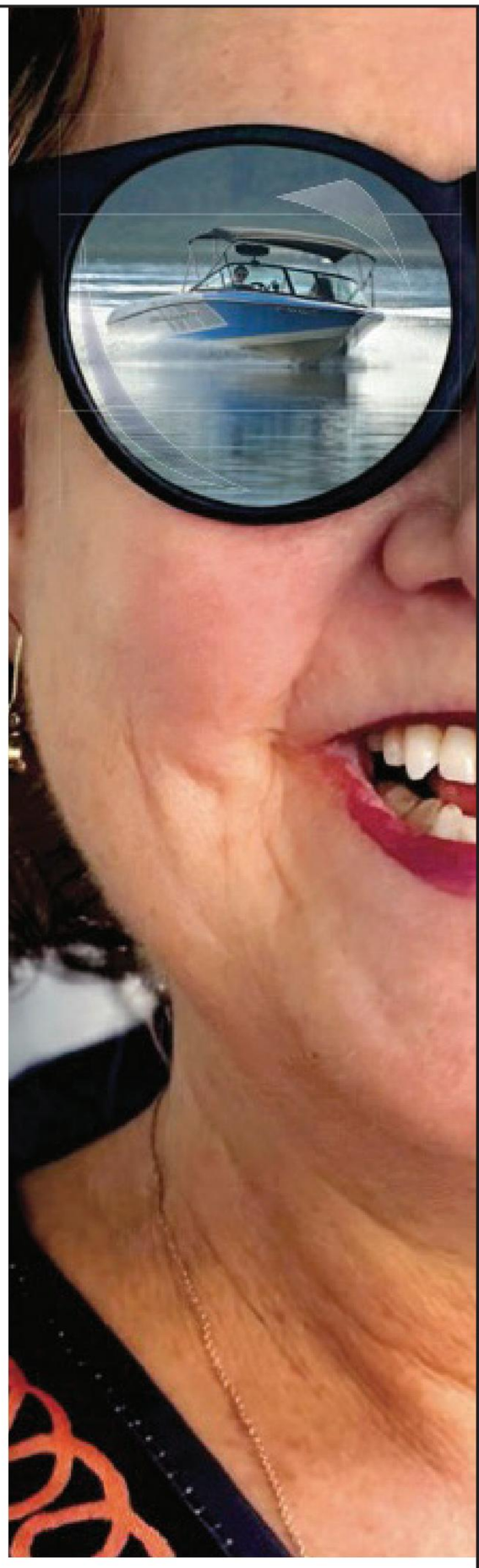

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